

Senate Resolution 121 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

1 A Resolution honoring Senator Amanda Ragan for her
2 service in the Iowa Senate.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Amanda Ragan, having been raised in
4 a tight-knit north Iowa community on a cattle farm near
5 Rockwell, and earning her A.A. degree from North Iowa
6 Community College and her B.A. degree, graduating cum
7 laude, from Buena Vista University while balancing work
8 and family commitments, learned the value of hard work
9 and resilience as well as the importance of helping
10 others, especially in times of need; and

11 WHEREAS, guided by these lessons and reflecting
12 Virginia Woolf's maxim that "One cannot think well,
13 love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well",
14 Senator Ragan became the executive director of both
15 Mason City Meals on Wheels and the Community Kitchen
16 of North Iowa, Inc., an independent nonprofit with a
17 mission of working to meet the nutritional, social,
18 emotional, and educational hungers of people in the
19 north Iowa area; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Ragan, recognizing that these
21 basic hungers are universal and resonate with
22 Iowans across the state, ran for and was elected
23 to the Iowa Senate in a special election in 2002,
24 and during her six terms has served as a member of
25 the Agriculture, Appropriations, Economic Growth,
26 Education, Human Resources, Local Government, Natural
27 Resources, Natural Resources and Environment, Rules and
28 Administration, State Government, and Veterans Affairs

1 standing committees and the Health and Human Services
2 Appropriations Subcommittee, and has held the positions
3 of Senate Democratic Whip, Assistant Majority Leader,
4 Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Whip, Agriculture
5 Committee Vice Chairperson, and Human Resources
6 Committee and Health and Human Services Appropriations
7 Subcommittee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Ranking
8 Member; and

9 WHEREAS, among other issues, Senator Ragan has
10 focused on expanding affordable health care; protecting
11 the rights of workers and raising the state's minimum
12 wage; improving the lives of seniors, low-income
13 Iowans, and Iowans with disabilities; expanding
14 services and protections for veterans and service
15 members; expanding access to quality and affordable
16 child care, early childhood programs, and higher
17 education and boosting funding to K-12 public schools;
18 increasing voter registration and participation; and
19 expanding civil rights for Iowans; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Ragan has served on innumerable
21 committees, boards, and commissions and has been
22 recognized by a wide range of entities as, among
23 other accolades, a champion, protector, voice for,
24 and hero of children, the underserved, persons with
25 disabilities, and seniors; a friend of agriculture; a
26 champion of renewable fuels; the Iowa Public Health
27 Official of the Year; and the Herbert Hoover Library
28 Association Uncommon Public Servant of the Year; and

29 WHEREAS, Senator Ragan is known to be one of the
30 first to arrive at and one of the last to leave the

1 Senate chamber each day, relishing the privilege of
2 serving the constituents she has met at the tens of
3 thousands of doors knocked in her community; and

4 WHEREAS, unlike those River City self-described
5 "Iowa stubborn" who can stand touching noses for a week
6 at a time and never see eye-to-eye, Senator Ragan has
7 always been willing to listen and to reach across the
8 aisle, demonstrating the rare mixture in policymaking
9 of pragmatism and real-world experience with an
10 empathetic voice, all laced with a dry wit; and

11 WHEREAS, as Senator Ragan retires from the Senate,
12 also having recently retired from her dual executive
13 director roles, she will have more time to spend with
14 her husband Jim Ragan, a retired U.S. Air Force Lt.
15 Col., their two children, Edith (Joe) and Charles
16 (Kate), and their four grandchildren, Amanda, William,
17 Isaac, and Ivy, while continuing to advocate for her
18 beloved north Iowa community and make Iowa a better
19 place; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate honors
21 Senator Amanda Ragan for her years of service in the
22 Senate, and wishes her and her family all the best in
23 the years to come.